

## **Institutional Distinctiveness: Mission Gyanodaya**

“Aaroh Tamso Jyoti”-may we rise from darkness to light, ignorance to the knowledge-the motto of Government College, Sanjauli has been kept alive by Harsh Thakur- 3rd-year student and founder of Mission Gyanodaya. The mission was founded in October 2021 and aims at making books available to needy students and the general public through libraries. It began with a donation of 900 books to the Mashobra library. Gradually, the mission also emerged as an avenue of learning for the underprivileged living in temporary settlements. The mission has so far collected and distributed 7000 books and simultaneously visited slums to teach more than 200 underprivileged students across the state. Initiated by a student of this college, the mission has presently grown to a state-level stature involving various schools and colleges. Govt College Basa, Karsog, and Nehri together collected 2000 books for distribution. Senior Secondary Schools at Mahunag, Karsog, and Churag have actively supported this initiative too. As of now, this mission is presently active in 8 districts of Himachal Pradesh- Shimla, Mandi, Una, Kangra, Solan, Sirmour, Hamirpur, and Bilaspur. The founder, Harsh Thakur is still passionately involved in this mission, encouraging students to volunteer and the general public to donate books.